

Museum Musings Article- Krum News
March 2010

First article in Krum Star

Museum Musings
By Kathryn Dodd

From the October 5, 1920 archives of the Denton Record-Chronicle was this article on Krum:

KRUM JITNEY DELIVERY RESTORED FOR KRUM

The Record-Chronicle has arranged with A.C. Ball of Krum for delivery of the afternoon edition to Krum and other points in the western part of the county by jitney on the afternoon of publication. The jitney leaves the Record-Chronicle office at 3:30 o'clock for Krum with the first edition of the paper and Krum readers will then receive their paper as soon as Denton readers do. Mr. Ball will also carry the editions for Ponder, Justin and Sanger to Krum and they are mailed through the post office at Krum and reach their destinations during the afternoon.

Mr. Ball will carry passengers to Krum for the Santa Fe, making connections with the north and south-bound trains during the afternoon, and will make a morning trip leaving Denton at 10:30 o'clock to make train connections. His headquarters are at the Record-Chronicle office in Denton and calls will be received for him and any information given.

What is a Jitney? In doing some research on this I found this explanation: "*Jitneys, a name coined by a Long Beach newspaper reporter because they charged a jitney or five cents for the ride, were a variety of independent operators running automobiles of all vintages and descriptions.*" Jitneys came in all forms and could be any small motor vehicle, such as a car, van or bus that transports passengers on a route for a small fare. I found one picture of Jitney drivers lined up waiting to pick up passengers.



So I got to thinking, if it only cost 5 cents to take a jitney what did other things cost in 1920. From doing additional research I found some interesting information:

Cost of Living-1920

Gallon of milk: 58 cents

Loaf of bread: 11 cents

New auto: \$500

Gallon of Gas: 10 cents per gallon

New Home: \$6,296

Average Income: \$1,179

Well I have to go fill up my \$25,000 jitney with some \$2.69 per gallon gasoline so I can go to the grocery store and buy some \$4.00 milk and \$2.00 bread.